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VENEZUELA.**Yellow Fever at Caracas.**

Acting Asst. Surg. Stewart, at La Guaira, reports December 16: During the week ended December 8, 2 cases of yellow fever were reported at Caracas.

Establishment of a National Office of Sanitation.

By executive order the President of the United States of Venezuela on November 13, 1911, directed the creation of a national office of sanitation. The following is a translation of the decree:

Gen. J. V. Gomez, President of the United States of Venezuela, considering:

That in order to be made efficacious for the public health, sanitary measures must be established with perfect scientific rigor and practice and in a regular way, stable and uniform throughout the country:

Considering:

That the Republic, as well for its foreign relations as for its internal development and the fostering of immigration, needs sanitary conditions beyond reproach;

Decrees:

ARTICLE 1. An office of national sanitation is created under the orders of which will act an institute of hygiene, composed of a laboratory of bacteriology, one of parasitology, and one of biological chemistry; a veterinary department, and a central station of disinfection.

This office shall establish other subordinate offices with the proper personnel in those parts of the Republic where the service of sanitation requires it.

ART. 2. For its control and action the national office will depend upon the President of the Republic, whose orders shall be countersigned by the proper minister, according to article 100 of the national constitution.

ART. 3. The personnel of the national office shall consist of a director, a subdirector, who shall be a technical bacteriologist, an engineer, a biological chemist, a veterinarian, an inspector general, two technical assistants, a secretary, who shall be a stenographer, and two laboratory attendants.

ART. 4. The personnel of the central station of disinfection shall be composed of a chief medical officer, who shall be a bacteriologist, an administrator, a porter, two disinfectors, two drivers, and two firemen.

ART. 5. The Federal Executive shall name the director, and on his recommendation the technical employees and principals of the office of national sanitation. The director shall make the other appointments with the previous approval of the former.

ART. 6. The director is empowered to contract abroad, with the previous approval of the executive, for the technical employees whom the institute and the central office of disinfection may need.

ART. 7. The building occupied by the bureau of telegraphs is temporarily assigned for the establishment of the office of national sanitation.

ART. 8. The apparatus, instruments, machines, needful furniture, equipment, and records now used by the bureau of hygiene and public health shall form a part of the office of national sanitation, as shall also everything acquired for this service in the future.

ART. 9. The Executive shall construct for the institute as soon as possible, according to plans presented by the director, a suitable building, which shall be provided with the necessary apparatus, equipment, and tools.

ART. 10. The institutions of charity, the leper hospitals, the hospitals for the insane, other hospitals, lazarettos, aqueducts, sewers, and street pavements in the Federal District, as well as in the States and Territories of the Union, shall be under the immediate and direct control of the office of national sanitation for the purpose of disinfection and sanitation.

ART. 11. In conformity with the studies, decisions, and regulations of the office of national sanitation practicable construction, extension, and modification of aqueducts, sewers, pavements, and other works in the province of sanitary engineering shall be undertaken in order to improve with the required speed the ports of La Guaira, Puerto Cabello, Maracaibo, Tucacas, La Vela, Cumana, Rio Caribe, Cristobal Colon, Guiria, Irapa, Imataca, Ciudad Bolivar, and others, fluvial as well as maritime, and also the other cities of the Republic.

ART. 12. The ministries, presidents of States, municipal councils, Territorial governments, frontier authorities, military commanders, customs officers, and other bodies and officers shall have recourse to this sole and central authority for consultation in these matters.

The office of national sanitation is empowered to create, approve, introduce, and authorize special procedures to assure the harmlessness of the chief food products and also to regulate the sale of them.

ART. 13. Food products from within and without the country, of whatever class, shall be submitted to the experts of the office of national sanitation for their inspection and examination and shall not be offered to dealers or for consumption without the previous approval of the said office.

ART. 14. The office of national sanitation shall formulate regulations and ordinances of sanitation and health, which shall be submitted to the Federal Executive for his approval.

ART. 15. The Federal Executive shall request of transportation companies operating on land, rivers, and sea the free transportation of the employees and apparatus of the office of national sanitation in the exercise of their functions.

ART. 16. The office of national sanitation shall draft a system of laws and regulations for the centralization of the service, and the unification of sanitary legislation in the country and its codification, which shall be presented to the National Congress through the proper channel.

ART. 17. For the service, maintenance, and better realization, of the object, the revenue from the tax established by the decree of December 29, 1910, and that part of the budget called duties for hygiene and health are set aside.

ART. 18. In the national treasury a separate account shall be kept of the items mentioned in the preceding article, the receipts from which shall be in charge of the corporation, institution, or person designated by the Executive, and the office of national sanitation shall draw in every case through the proper minister, and shall send monthly vouchers to the minister of finance and public credit for the legalization of the account.

ART. 19. The budget of the office of national sanitation shall be elaborated by the Federal Executive.

ART. 20. The national authorities as well as those of the States and municipalities shall give their immediate support to and shall exert themselves in giving, and causing to be given, strict compliance with the regulations, ordinances, and orders of the office of national sanitation.

ART. 21. All decrees, orders, resolutions, and regulations relating to hygiene, health, and disinfection now in force are repealed.

Given, signed, and sealed with the seal of the Federal Executive and subscribed by the ministers of executive business in the federal palace at Caracas November 13, 1911. Year 102 of independence and fifty-third of the federation.

(Signed) J. V. GOMEZ.

(Countersigned by members of the cabinet.)

CHOLERA. YELLOW FEVER, PLAGUE, AND SMALLPOX.

REPORTS RECEIVED DURING WEEK ENDED JAN. 5, 1912.*

[These tables include cases and deaths recorded in reports received by the Surgeon General, Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, from American consuls through the Department of State and from other sources.]

[For reports received from July 1, 1911, to Dec. 29, 1911, see PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS for Dec. 29, 1911. In accordance with custom, the tables of epidemic diseases are terminated semiannually and new tables begun.]

CHOLERA.

Places.	Date.	Cases.	Deaths.	Remarks.
Bulgaria:				
Vara.....	Nov. 6.....	1.....	
Dutch East Indies.....				Total Sept. 24-Oct. 9, 1911: Cases, 322; deaths, 256.
India:				
Batavia.....	Nov. 12-18.....	6.....	2.....	
Calcutta.....	Nov. 5-11.....	39.....	
Italy.....				Total Nov. 26-Dec. 2: Cases, 51; deaths, 34.
Provinces—				
Caltanissetta	Nov. 26-Dec. 2....	2.....	2.....	
Girgenti.....	do.....	45.....	29.....	
Messina.....	do.....	3.....	2.....	
Syracuse.....	do.....	1.....	1.....	
Malta.....	Nov. 19-Dec. 2....	4.....	4.....	Dec. 23 declared free from cholera.
Philippine Islands:				
Province—				
Union.....	Oct. 29-Dec. 4....	5.....	5.....	
Straits Settlements:				
Singapore.....	Nov. 5-18.....	3.....	3.....	